

Clay County - Courthouse

Ceremony

*Presentation of Certificate Placing Building
On National Registry of Historic Places*



OLD CLAY COUNTY COURT HOUSE

GREEN COVE SPRINGS

FLORIDA

OCTOBER 10, 1975

4 P.M.

Program

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. BAND MUSIC | COMBINED BANDS
Clay High School
Orange Park High School
Keystone Heights High School |
| 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE | Thomas D. Ryan, Jr.
Chairman, Clay County Historical
Commission |
| 3. PRESENTATION OF COLORS | Color Guard
Clay High School JNROTC |
| 4. NATIONAL ANTHEM
Rodney Nelson | Combined Bands |
| 5. INVOCATION | The Rev. James Conway |
| 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND
RECOGNITIONS | Thomas D. Ryan, Jr. |
| 7. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS | George L. Carlisle |
| 8. HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
OLD COURT HOUSE | Joseph H. Elliott
President Clay County Historical
Society |
| 9. INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER | Thomas D. Ryan, Jr. |
| 10. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE
AND LITANY | Bruce A. Smathers
Secretary of State
State of Florida |

Litany of Preservation

- | | |
|--------|--|
| LEADER | To the glory of God who created this earth,
To the honor of all mankind among us,
To the memory of those who have given us our heritage, |
| PEOPLE | We shall preserve this building. |
| LEADER | In memory of our forebearers who dreamed of this
structure
As a reminder of the sacrifices of the early citizens
of our country,
As a present commitment to their just pride in this symbol
of county government, |

PEOPLE

We shall preserve this building.

LEADER

As a place for the collection of momentos of the past,
As a house to preserve these treasures,
As a museum for the display of these items of history,

PEOPLE

We shall preserve this building.

LEADER

As a site of general interest to the citizens of the county,
As a special teaching place for children in school,
As a focal point for those devoted to local history,

PEOPLE

We shall preserve this building.

LEADER

As a symbol of the past,
As an opportunity for the present,
As a challenge for the years ahead,

PEOPLE

We shall preserve this building.

LEADER

In gratitude for those who labored and served our county
In memory of those who have gone before,
In the hope of an even more meaningful future,

PEOPLE

We shall preserve this building.

ALL SHALL SAY

We now, the people of Clay County, in witness to one another, grateful for our heritage, sensitive to the sacrifices of our fathers and mothers, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves to assist those who labor here to the end that this site and this building be preserved, restored and maintained as an historic site worthy of our efforts. So may it be now and always.

11. RESPONSE

Olin Howard
Chairman, Board of Commissioners,
Clay County

12. OPEN HOUSE AND REFRESHMENTS

The Old Court House

1889—1975

After a short period of being located in the Middleburg area, the seat of Clay County government came to Green Cove Springs in 1872, occupying first only temporary quarters and later a small two-story courthouse built by W. M. Lang in 1874 for just \$1,200.00.

Fourteen years later, in 1889, the commissioners, seeing the need for larger quarters, accepted the architectural plans of A. E. McClure and awarded the building contract for the courthouse before you to W. A. McDuff. The cornerstone was laid in January, 1890, and the finished structure accepted by the County Commissioners on July 7, 1890, at a cost of—\$13,215.30! This new courthouse served well with only minor additions—a hitching rack in 1893, a new stable in 1895, a wire fence to keep out the cattle, a typewriter, electric lights in 1909—until 1911 when a small wing was added for the County Clerk's office.

Throughout the years the courthouse has remained relatively unchanged; other small wing additions have been made, but the original structure has retained its Victorian grace. Though the government offices have again been relocated in even newer quarters, this venerable old structure remains as a symbol of the past, with new life being found today in its role as the County Historic Museum.

YES and I was there - ! "mother Ethel Jennings Knight
my Good friend -
The First Shands Bridge across St John's
River - Green Cove Spgs Fla. Built 1928
April 10 -